Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, line 18 through page 19, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

Those skilled in the art and guided by the teachings herein provided will appreciate that a variety of gaseous materials can desirably be used in the practice of the invention. For example, gaseous materials for use as a sensitizing gas in the practice of the invention may desirably be an inert gas such as helium, argon or ~~of~~ mixtures thereof. In accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the invention, the sensitizing gas materials may desirably constitute oxidant or oxidant source gas materials such as may be desirably selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide and mixtures thereof and such as may contribute to more complete combustion, i.e., increased combustion efficiency. The use of nitrous oxide as a sensitizing gas material in accordance with the invention is believed particularly advantageous as such nitrous oxide can desirably undergo exothermic dissociation such as to release additional heat and increase molar content of gaseous products. Further, if subjected to a sufficiently high pressure, such included nitrous oxide can be liquified such as to further increase the density of the contents of the inflator and such as may serve to further reduce the space or volume requirements thereof. In contrast, carbon dioxide generally involves an endothermic dissociation and may undesirably contribute to or otherwise increase the production or formation of carbon monoxide.

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, line 11 through page 23, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

In certain embodiments and as shown with the inflator 10, inflator devices in accordance with the invention may desirably contain or include an ignition device, designated by the reference numeral 30. The ignition device 30 can desirably be in or of the form of a flexible linear ignition cord such as rapid deflagration cord (also known as RDC and generally constituting a mixture of cesium hydroborate and potassium nitrate), ITLX detonating cord or the like, as are generally known in the art and such as can desirably extend substantially between the first and second housing ends, 14 and 16, respectively, and desirably centered along the axis 20. Actuation of the initiator device 24 desirably results in initiation of the ignition device 30. As will be appreciated, the inclusion and use of such or similar ignition device 30 can desirably serve to assist in attaining rapid and desirably uniform reaction of the gas generant material 22 extending over the longitudinal length of the housing 12.

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, lines 14-20, with the following amended paragraph:

The inflator 110 includes an initiator device 124, such as is known in the art, disposed adjacent the housing 112, but here situated at a location ~~designated 125,~~ intermediate the ends 114 and 116. The initiator device 124 has a discharge end or portion, generally designated by the reference numeral 126, in reaction initiating contact with at least a portion of the quantity of the gas generant material 122

disposed within the housing 12 such that, upon actuation of the initiator device 124, reaction of the gas generant material 122 can be properly and accordingly initiated.